

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH

Beaver Street Enterprise Center
1225 W. Beaver Street, Suite 112 • Jacksonville, Florida 32204
(904) 265-4702

Email: jaxnaacp@comcast.net

Isaiah Rumlin
President

August 2, 2021

To the Honorable Sam Newby
President, Jacksonville City Council
City Hall
117 W. Duval St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear President Newby:

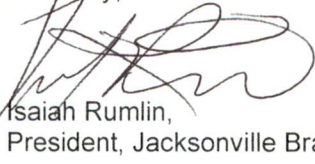
The Jacksonville Branch NAACP has serious concerns regarding the rollout of the nearly \$29 million dollars of federal funds allocated in March to the City of Jacksonville. The funds were meant to assist residents who have been unable to pay their rent or utilities. The Branch feels that the distribution of funds to those in need has been grossly mishandled and far too slow. With the Eviction Moratorium expiring on July 31st, it will leave families vulnerable to evictions and will disproportionately affect blacks and low-income families who are in desperate need of help.

The relief program is a partnership between the City of Jacksonville and the United Way of Northeast Florida. Applications for assistance were accepted beginning on March 29th for families to receive up to 12 months of rent and utility payments. Despite hundreds of people being helped, there remain thousands of Jacksonville residents who are still waiting for assistance. The United Way of Northeast Florida claims that the backlog is due to the need for more staff to review the applications. The NAACP finds that explanation unacceptable. The city has an obligation to select and oversee agencies responsible for the distribution of federal funds and should have chosen a partner capable of timely administering the funds. Why should these families suffer due to inadequate staffing and poor management?

The Branch is calling for a complete investigation and accountability of the handling of this process and demands that the funding be distributed immediately to those that qualify.

The City of Jacksonville and the United Way owe it to residents to take swift action to make sure all the federal funds are distributed to prevent families from being evicted.

Sincerely,



Isaiah Rumlin,
President, Jacksonville Branch NAACP

Cc: Mayor Lenny Curry
City Council Members
Michelle Braun, CEO, United Way of Northeast Florida